2.

THE Golden Fleece: OR, SOME THOUGHTS ON THE Cloathing Trade OF *IRELAND.*

WITH

A PROPOSAL for its ADVANCEMENT; ſo far as to ſupply our own Conſumption; employ our idle Hands; prevent their going for the future into *France* and *Spain* for Work; and put an entire Stop to the clandeſtine Exportation of *Wool.*

By JOHN LONG, *Clothier.*

Who-e'er expects a faultleſs Piece to ſee,
Thinks what ne'er was, nor is, nor e'er ſhall be.
In ev'ry Work regard the Writer's End,
Since none can practiſe more than they intend:
And if the Means be juſt, the Conduct true,
Applauſe in ſpight of trivial Faults is due. POPE.

DUBLIN:

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(Price a Britiſh Six-pence.)

TO THE

Right HONOURABLE, and HONOURABLE, and to each and every of the *Members*, that compoſe the truly laudable Body of Men, entitled,

The DUBLIN SOCIETY:

The following Thoughts on

The Cloathing Trade of IRELAND,

are, with all due Reſpect,

and utmoſt Gratitude,

DEDICATED

By their moſt obliged,

and moſt obedient Servant,

DUBLIN,
April 28, 1762.

JOHN LONG.

THE

Golden Fleece:

OR

Thoughts on the Cloathing Trade.

IT is a Duty incumbent on every one, to promote to the utmoſt of his Power, the Welfare of that Community of which he is a Member. The more exalted in Rank, or opulent in Fortune, a Man is, the greater Obligation there is on him, and the greater Power he has, of doing good: Yet there is no one ſo inconſiderable, or ſo ſituated in Life, but has an Opportunity ſometimes of throwing in his Mite to contribute to the general Welfare.

HINTS of the induſtrious Manufacturer for ſo good a Work, ought not to be diſregarded; eſpecially, if it be conſidered, that his Obſervations, unlike the Cobweb Texture of the mere Speculatiſt, are the Reſult of Practice and Experience in Buſineſs, and founded on a Knowledge of the Subject he treats of. On this Account, claiming a Privilege

lege to be heard, is no Preſumption; but to withhold his Sentiments would be miſerly.

Fully convinced of the Utility and Importance of his Propoſal, and the Candour of that reſpectable Body to whom he more particularly addreſſes it; the Author of theſe Sheets ventures to deliver his Sentiments on a Subject, that is not only of the greateſt Conſequence to this Kingdom, but alſo to the Staple Manufacture of *England*: And he dares to aſſert, that if his Plan be purſued, it will not only contribute to raiſe the Woollen Trade of both Kingdoms, but greatly depreſs that of our perfidious, our natural Enemy.

In laying his Scheme before the Public, the Author cannot hope to be ſo accurate, or ſo perfect, as to leave no Room for Amendment; nor does he conceive it to be neceſſary to lay down every Regulation that may be made for its better Government. Perfection is not the Lot of Mortality. In every new Scheme, Improvements may be made to it from Time to Time.—Such is the Writer's. His Intention, therefore, is now to make ſuch Obſervations on the low State of the Woollen Manufacture of *Ireland*, as will convey to the Minds of his Readers, a general Notion of a Plan he has formed to advance it: And he hopes, that while he ſtudies to avoid all Circumlocution, and Prolixity, he ſhall not be ſo conciſe, as to render his Meaning obſcure.

He has thought proper to premiſe theſe Things, that the Reader may know what he is to expect in this Performance; and that he may not be diſappointed, after the Peruſal of it, in not finding what the Writer never intended,---a *perfect Plan*. He begs Leave alſo to obſerve; that as an Affection for his Country, and a Regard for the Woollen Manufacture

facture alone, prompt him to deliver his Sentiments, he hopes he ſhall be exculpated from all Suſpicion of entertaining any ſiniſter Views; and that the Integrity of his Deſign will compenſate for the Feebleneſs of his Execution.

It is a Fact too well known to be diſputed, that conſiderable Numbers of our Woollen Manufacturers had, a few Years ſince, Encouragement given them to tranſport themſelves into *Spain:* And it is equally notorious, that finding themſelves unable to get Employment and a comfortable Subſiſtence here, they choſe to accept it there. Very ineffectual Methods were then, or ſince taken, to prevent theſe pernicious Depopulations: Yet it is no difficult Matter to ſhew how they may be effectually put a Stop to; and that is, by finding them Employment, and thereby enabling them to procure a decent Livelihood in their native Country: For it is ſelf-evident, that none but Men of a looſe, and rambling Diſpoſition, will ſubject themſelves to the Inconveniencies and hazardous Trials of Fortune in a Foreign Country, if they can live equally well at Home.

It is with the Aſſiſtance of *Iriſh* and *French* Workmen, that *Spain* has lately eſtabliſhed her Woollen Manufacture. Her Demand for Woollen Goods from *England* for ſupplying her *Flota*, is already leſſened; and every Year will in all Probability more and more diminiſh it. What then will become of the Intereſt of the *Britiſh* Trader in the Return of the *Spaniſh* Galleons? Will not their Dollars, inſtead of being ſent to *England*, be employed to pay their own Manufacturers? Is not this greatly owing to the Hardſhips and Diſcouragements our *Iriſh* Workmen labour under in their own Country? And was it not from the ſame Prejudice and Diſcouragement, that when the Deſtruction

ſtruction of the Woollen Trade in *Ireland* was firſt formed, by the Act made in *England*, for prohibiting the Exportation of the Woollen Manufacture of *Ireland* to foreign Parts, that ſeveral hundreds of our Manufacturers were obliged to quit their native Country, their Families, and Friends? To the ruining our Woollen Trade, may be imputed the advancing it in other Nations. And indeed, the gradual and notorious Decay of the *Engliſh* in this Branch of Trade, may be imputed to the ſame Cauſe: So that the ſame Act that was levelled againſt our Manufacture, at the ſame Time injured their own; and had this farther ill Effect, that it induced the People of this Kingdom to export their raw Wool to *France*; a Practice never before heard of.

It is the Obſervation of a judicious Writer, that when Trade flows for any Time through a new Channel, no Art, nor Induſtry, can ever bring it back to its old one. The Hardſhips laid on the *Flemings* by the Inquiſition, and the Duke of *Alva*, firſt removed the Woollen Manufacture from *Flanders* into *England*. The Hardſhips laid on the *Iriſh* Workmen by the Repeal of the Forty Shillings Act, greatly contributed to increaſe that Manufacture in *France*. And as from ſimilar Cauſes, ſimilar Effects will flow, ſo the ſame Diſcouragement hath lately eſtabliſhed it in *Spain*: A Country that imported more Woollen Goods from *England*, than any other Country whatever; and what rendered this Trade more peculiarly advantageous was, that they paid for ſuch Goods in Specie.

To prevent ſuch dangerous Tranſplantations for the future, and to keep our Wool at Home, (two Conſiderations of the utmoſt Weight) I know of no Method equal to the finding Employment for our Workmen

Workmen in this Manufacture: If not for Exportation, at leaſt for Home Conſumption. This will in a great Meaſure, if not wholly, put a Stop to the great Importations we have annually from Abroad, both of Woollen Goods of the narrow Kind, and of the Superfine *.

To remove every Obſtacle for this Purpoſe, and the more intelligibly to communicate what hath occurred to me on this Head; it will be previouſly neceſſary to enquire into ſome Part of the Management of this Manufacture in *England*, as far as came within the Circle of my own Knowledge and Experience.

The Manufacturers of all Kinds in *England* have a Maxim, which they ſtrictly follow;——That the propereſt Places for carrying on their Deſigns, are thoſe, where Proviſions are cheapeſt, People numerous, and unemployed on more profitable Works; and the Materials either to be found on the Spot, or eaſily brought thither by a cheap and ready Carriage. Theſe neceſſary Conſiderations, have induced Manufacturers of all Kinds of heavy Goods, to forſake the Metropolis, as a Place unfit for their Purpoſe. It is well known, that the *Yorkſhire*

* That the Reader may have at one View, the Medium Value of Cloth imported into this Kingdom, from 1741, to 1760, we have ſubjoined the following Table.

A. D.	Amounted to	*A. D.*	Amounted to	*A. D.*	Amounted to
1741 }	*l.* *s.* *d.*	1748 }	*l.* *s.* *d.*	1755 }	*l.* *s.* *d.*
1742 }	12,262 03 2	1749 }	34,279 16 7	1756 }	38,382 17 6
1743 }		1750 }		1757 }	
1744 }		1751 }		1758 }	
1745 }	14,065 11 8	1752 }	42,961 16 8	1759 }	93,776 12 2
1746 }		1753 }		1760 }	

So that the Value of Cloth imported into *Ireland* from 1741, to 1760, amounts to 235,728 *l.* 17*s.* 9*d.* the laſt three Years amounting to above ſeven Times as much as the Year 1743.

Ware-houſes for divers Kinds of Goods, have of late made no inconſiderable Figure in *London*; where the Purchaſer may buy Commodities, of equal Goodneſs, much cheaper than thoſe of the ſame Kind manufactured in that City. What is this owing to, but to the different Prices of Proviſions, Houſe-Rent, and Labour, between the remote Parts of *England* and its Capital, whoſe Artiſans are thereby underſold in ſuch Goods as are proper for Exportation, and for the Uſes of the common People?

The Cloathing Trade requiring many Hands, ſkilled in its different Branches, many of whom labour hard and work cheap, was never carried on in or near *London*, or its Suburbs, as it was originally in *Dublin*; nor even within many Miles of that great City. The middling, or coarſe Cloths of *England*, are, for the moſt Part, manufactured in *Yorkſhire*, in different Villages, where all neceſſary Conveniencies are to be found; and theſe are, at leaſt, an hundred and forty Miles diſtant from *London*. Among other noted Towns, in that County, is that of *Leeds*; where, though no Woollen Goods are manufactured, yet it is the chief Mart or Repoſitory for thoſe of the whole County; as it ſtands almoſt in the Centre of the ſeveral Factories. In this Town are held two Weekly Markets throughout the Year, which, at Notice given by Toll of Bell, are opened early in the Morning; the Cloths then intended for Sale, are for that Purpoſe brought into the Market by the Owners; and ſuch great Diſpatch is made in buying and ſelling, that the whole Buſineſs thereof is tranſacted in an Hour; and if any Perſon afterwards attempts to bargain for Cloths that Day, he is liable to be ſeverely fined. By this excellent Cuſtom, both the Purchaſer and

Owner

Owner know at once the Reſult of that Day's Market, and are ſaved much Time, Expence, and Inconvenience, they would otherwiſe be liable to, by being delayed from their Homes, and prevented purſuing their other domeſtic Concerns.

The Makers of theſe Cloths, are moſtly a poor, laborious, induſtrious People, but the Purchaſers are wealthy Merchants, who traffick with theſe Goods to the *Baltic*, &c. They ſeldom exceed ſix, or are under three Shillings a Yard; and but a ſmall Part of them is conſumed in *England*.

In the ſame County, there is another Kind of narrow Cloth made, called *Plains*, or *Forreſt-Cloths*. The Manufacturers of theſe, are alſo a laborious People, inhabiting an uncultivated Part of the Country, conſiſting of a Ridge of Mountains, called *Saddleworth*, extending ſeveral Miles in Length. Contiguous to this, lies *Huddersfield*, a Town wherein no Cloth is manufactured, but, like *Leeds*, is another Mart and Repoſitory for theſe *Forreſt-Cloths*, which are ſold on every *Wedneſday* in open Market, to Merchants, who finiſh and export great Quantities of them to *Ireland*; to the great Detriment of the middling Kinds of Fabricks wrought up in this Kingdom.

Besides *Yorkſhire*, there is very little Cloth manufactured in any other of the *Engliſh* Counties, except the Weſtern ones, particularly in *Wiltſhire*, *Gloceſterſhire*, and Part of *Devonſhire* and *Hampſhire*. Theſe Counties, indeed, have long rendered themſelves famous both for ſuperfine and refine Cloths. Among other Towns of no inconſiderable Note, *Trowbridge*, *Bradford*, and *Chippenham*, deſervedly claim the Preference; the Cloths they manufacture being allowed to be the beſt in *England*. But their Method of making it, is very different from that

uſed in *Yorkſhire*; for here are no Cloth Merchants as in that Country; but the chief Manufacturers follow only one particular Branch of the Buſineſs, whereby they greatly excell in it, and by aſſiduous Application and long Experience, gain a complete Knowledge of the Art. Some, for Example, apply themſelves to the making of Scarlets only; (as in *Gloceſterſhire*) others to the manufacturing of Blacks; others to ſuperfine Blues; and ſome to Medley Cloths. By thus applying themſelves to one Branch, it is no Wonder they ſhould excell any other Clothier therein, who ſhould attempt the making of them all. And, what renders it ſtill more beneficial is, that they carry on the Work through all its different Branches, from ſhearing the Wool from the Sheep's Back, to the laſt Operation of the Sciſſars, in and about themſelves.

The *Scribbling* is a very material Branch of this Buſineſs, and is generally performed in ſome Part of the Clothier's Work-Houſes, under his own Inſpection. When the Wool is ſcribbled, it is diſperſed round the Neighbourhood, by the Clothier's Servants, in Order to have it ſpun, ſome Part for the Warp, and ſome for the Weft; for each of which Taſks there are particular Spinners peculiarly qualified. By this Management, the different Kinds of Yarn are ſpun to a great Degree of Perfection; and the different Qualifications, which each of the Spinners poſſeſs, are exerted to their own greateſt Emolument, to that of the Clothier's, and to the Advantage and Honour of the Manufacture.

The Weaving is likewiſe a very important Branch of the Woollen Manufactory, and is either carried on in or about the Clothier's Work-Houſe, or in ſome convenient Place at no great Diſtance from it.

THE Shearing, another Branch of this Buſineſs, and no inconſiderable one, is performed in the Clothier's Work-Houſe, and under his Inſpection; and as it is of no ſmall Moment to have the Cloths well ſheared, Care is taken to provide diligent and ſkilful Men, to perform their Work in a proper Manner.

VERY few of theſe fine Cloths are purchaſed in the Weſt, where they are manufactured, but ſent up to *London*, and depoſited in *Blackwell-Hall*, for Home Conſumption and Exportation: That Hall being the Woollen Repoſitory where they are lodged and diſpoſed of, in the ſame Manner as our Linens are in the *Linen-Hall* in *Dublin*.

NOTWITHSTANDING theſe Examples, I do not remember to have heard of any conſiderable Work of this Kind to have been erected in *Ireland*. The Wool produced in the Weſtern Parts of *England*, is, as I before obſerved, worked up on the Spot, from the Sheeps Back, to the fineſt Texture it is capable of: But our Wool, equally fine, has been frequently manufactured in large Quantities in *France*. We have, indeed, a very flouriſhing Woollen Factory for Ratteens, in the Town of *Carrick-on-Suir*, originally planted there in King *William*'s Reign by ſome *Dutch* Men, where it has throve ſo exceedingly ſince that Period, that all the common People live comfortably, and are inriched thereby to a very great Degree. Had the firſt Eſtabliſhers of this Work erected it in this Metropolis, we ſhould probably have heard nothing of it for ſome Years paſt. But thoſe *Dutchmen* were wiſe enough to know, that a large City, or its Neighbourhood, was no proper Place to eſtabliſh a Manufacture in, or find a ſufficient Number of Workmen to carry it on in all its Branches. They therefore very judiciouſly

ſet

ſet it up in a cheap and plentiful Part of the Kingdom, where People were numerous and unemployed, and where the Materials abounded on the Spot.

HENCE it appears, that if the Woollen Manufacture of *Ireland*, was carried on in the propereſt Parts of this Kingdom, as in *England*; it is capable with due Encouragement, and under proper Regulations, to be brought to ſuch a Degree of Perfection, as to ſupply our own Conſumption, if not entirely, in a very great Degree. This would naturally prevent the Importation of *Engliſh* Woollen-Drapery, and thereby prove not only advantageous to *Ireland*, but *England* alſo; as I ſhall immediately make appear.

THAT *England* does not, or cannot ſupply her *American* Colonies with ſufficient Quantities of Woollen Goods is a Truth well known; and it is equally certain, that ſome of the Provinces, now work up great Quantities of a very good Kind of coarſe Cloth, almoſt ſufficient to anſwer all the Demands of the Planters, and lower Sort of People, who, a few Years ago, took all their Cloth from *England*.

THE Wool in thoſe Colonies is purchaſed at an extreme low Price, yet as Labour is very dear, their Cloth muſt come very dear to them. Yet notwithſtanding this, they certainly find their Account, on the whole in manufacturing it; and make it cheaper than they can have it from *England*. What muſt be the Conſequence of their thus eſtabliſhing a Woollen Manufacture, to *Great-Britain?* Which, though now in its Infancy, may, like other Attempts, and other Inſtitutions, gradually gather Strength, 'till it riſes from its primæval State of Youth and Imperfection, to Maturity and Excellence? Their attempting this Manufacture threatens a great

a great Declenſion, if not Ruin, of that of their Mother-Country, with Reſpect to the furniſhing theſe Colonies; and will have this farther ill Effect, that it will free them from their State of Dependence on *England*, with Regard to Trade, and thereby hurt the *Engliſh* Manufacturer in the tendereſt Point.

As this is evidently a true State of the Caſe, what is it the Intereſt of *Great-Britain* to do? And how ought ſhe to behave in this critical Emergency?—The Anſwer is eaſy;—to keep theſe People employed on other Works, that, not injuring, or in the leaſt relating to the Woollen Trade, may yet be equally proper, and more beneficial for the *Americans* to be engaged in. This muſt be, by encouraging them to raiſe ſuch Products, and cultivate ſuch Commodities, as their Soil and Climate may be the moſt particularly fit for. And indeed, this would be doubly advantageous to *England*: Firſt, by the Advancement and Extenſion of her Woollen Manufacture; and, ſecondly, by putting a Stop to the Importation of many Commodities *England* receives at preſent from *Sweden*, *Ruſſia*, and other Countries, and which then ſhe might receive from her own Colonies. Among theſe, Pot-Aſh, Bar-Iron, Flax, Hemp, Indigo, Naval Stores, *&c.* may be reckoned.

If, inſtead of ſuffering the *Americans* to manufacture Wool, *Ireland* was permitted to do it, we ſhould be enabled to ſupply the *Britiſh* Merchant with coarſe Goods, as cheap as he could buy them at Home; by which Means, the Demands of our Colonies might be ſupplied ſo reaſonably, as not to make it worth their while to make Cloth, when their Labour might be more profitably employed on Objects more worthy their Attention and Care.

And

And indeed, it ſeems evident, that as the Increaſe of Births in our Colonies, is much greater than in theſe *European* Iſlands, if they are to be kept dependent on *Great-Britain* for their Cloathing, &c. the Mother-Country ſhould call in all the Aid that *Ireland* and *Scotland* are able to afford her; in order to work up Manufactures for ſupplying the Plantations cheap, otherwiſe they will ſupply themſelves, and by Degrees, endeavour to ſhake off their Dependency.

As a Merchant, in his particular Sphere, employs the cheapeſt Manufacturers he can find; ſo *England*, in her general Merchandiſe, ſhould employ the Poor of *Ireland* as the cheapeſt ſhe can find. And as Men pour Water into Pumps, which once ſet a-going, throw up exceſſive great Quantities in Return; ſo, if *England* was to give proper Encouragement to *Ireland*, ſhe would receive infinite Returns.

If to this it be objected, that a particular Branch of Trade ſhould be confined to any one Part of theſe Dominions, excluſive of the Reſt; by a Parity of Reaſon, it may be aſſerted, that even *that* Part ſhould be again divided to the Prejudice of a Part of Itſelf. Thus, if *Great-Britain* ſhould argue, that *Ireland* ought to have no Trade in Wool, another Set of Men may argue, that *Yorkſhire*, as they work cheap, ſhould be excluded too: And thus, by a contracted Notion of Things, and in like Manner, we may argue down the Manufacture, into one County, into one Town, into one Family, or even into one Houſe.

But ſurely, the *Britiſh* Nation muſt think in a more generous Manner. They muſt be ſenſible, that all Men have an equal Right to Liberty, and to all the Advantages of human Nature with themſelves. They muſt know, that if Power could take away

away the natural Rights of Mankind, their own boaſted Freedom would be ſoon a mere empty Name. And, I doubt not, but they are very ſenſible of this important Truth; that Nations are powerful only in Proportion as their Affections are united to the general Good of the whole; and no People's Affection can be ſo, where equal Liberty and equal Advantages are not permitted.

A MISTAKEN Notion prevails in *England*, that what *Ireland* ſhould gain by the Woollen Trade, herſelf would loſe; inſtead of this, the Advancement of the Woollen Manufacture of *Ireland*, would depend on the Depreſſion of that eſtabliſhed in other Countries, in Oppoſition to that of the *Engliſh*. *France* and *Spain*, indeed, would be greatly injured by the Advancement and Extenſion of the Cloathing Trade of *Ireland*; but *England* would be benefitted by it, as I have before made appear, in my Strictures on the State of that Manufacture in *America*.

IT has been generally laid down as an undoubted Truth, that to permit *Ireland* to have ſome Share in the Woollen Trade, is deſtructive to that of the *French* and *Spaniards*. The Maxim is certainly true.—If then, a contracted and inconſiderable Trade has this good Effect, would not a greater have more? And if the Advancement of the Woollen Manufacture of *France* and *Spain*, depends greatly on the Prohibition of that of *Ireland*; is not this tacitly giving that Encouragement to the Manufacture of a perfidious Foe, we deny to our Relation and Friend?

THE Woollen Trade can never be recovered in *England*, but by encouraging it in *Ireland*. But to this the *Engliſh* object, by ſaying, we can underſell them, and that we have Wool enough to work up,

and might have much more if we exported none to *France*.

It is ſaid that the *Iriſh* have formerly underſold the *Engliſh*, in a clandeſtine Trade of Stuffs to *Liſbon*; but the *French* have traded thither likewiſe, and they have been alſo underſold by the *Iriſh*. The *Engliſh* have complained of this clandeſtine Trade, and ſent Ships to watch and prevent it. The *French* alſo heavily complained, and would have ſtopped it likewiſe: And were it intirely prevented, the *French* would ſtand in the Place of the *Iriſh*; but the *Engliſh* would be underſold as much as ever.

It is true, that if no Wool was exported from *Ireland*, we ſhould have a ſufficient Quantity for as much of the Kind of Goods it could be wrought up to as we ſhould reaſonably want: And if Woollen Manufacturers were encouraged here, very little Wool would be ſent abroad; for Wool manufactured is worth three Times as much as when raw.

It is not doubted, but the *Iriſh* Wool and Yarn are neceſſary to the Manufactures of *France*. We are told by all that are converſant in this Buſineſs, that they are unable to carry on the Trade without them. They may, indeed, make very coarſe Cloths with their own Wool, which may, in ſome Degree, ſerve for their ordinary Home Conſumption. They make the fineſt Cloths with *Spaniſh* Wool; but the greateſt Part of the Cloths and Stuffs for Exportation, and general Uſe, are of a middling Sort, and cannot be well made without a Mixture of *Iriſh* Wool.

This Fact the moſt judicious Writers on the Woollen Trade affirm; and the *French* themſelves cannot deny it. For, do they not conſume greater Quantities,

Quantities, at a much greater Price, than their own Wool, and Woollen Yarn can bear? Do not ſome of the *Engliſh* Stuffs manufactured at *Norwich*, depend in ſome Meaſure, on *Iriſh* Woollen Yarn? If they do, (as, I believe, no one will deny,) the Manufactures of *France* muſt do it in a much higher Degree; for the Wool there differs much more from the Wool of *England*, than the *Iriſh* Wool does.

But to reduce this Argument even below its full Force, let us ſuppoſe, that the *Iriſh* Wool is uſeful only to *France* for ſuch Goods as it is neceſſary to in *England*. If then a Manufacture was eſtabliſhed here, that made Uſe of that Wool, that is neceſſary to *France*, and which we export to her; would not our Home Conſumption of it, be in a very great Degree diſtreſſing *France*, in this important Branch of Trade? It certainly would; and in Proportion as we ruined her Trade ſhould we advance our own, and that of our Mother Country.

The Wool, it is very evident, is the moſt conſiderable Article in the Manufacture; and ſince it is very evident, that the *Iriſh* Wool is of ſuch great Conſequence to *France*, and that no effectual Means have been deviſed, or, perhaps, can be taken, to prevent the Exportation of it to *France*, it ſeems to be the moſt natural, as well as the moſt efficacious Step, to diſtreſs our Enemies, and advance our own Intereſt, to eſtabliſh this Manufacture in *Ireland*, on a more firm Foundation, and in a more extenſive Manner than it has hitherto been.

One Circumſtance taken Notice of by our ableſt Writers, and which cannot be too often repeated, is, That in whatever Branches of Manufacture

the *Engliſh* or *Iriſh* Wool, is employed in *France*, it works up twice as much of the *French* Wool. If *Ireland* was allowed to work up all her Wool, but one third of the Quantity worked up in *France* could be manufactured here. This is the principal Kind of Cloth exported from *France*, which would be ſtopped, were the *Iriſh* allowed to work up their Wool, and yet they would only gain one third of that Exportation. There muſt then remain two thirds of the Demand unſatisfied; which cannot be ſupplied from any other Place but from *England*. By this View of Things then, it plainly appears, that *England* would benefit as much again by opening our Woollen Trade as ourſelves could poſſibly do; for of the Ruins of the *French* Manufacture, two thirds muſt demonſtrably fall to *England*.

It is well known, that Workmen may be hired, and Wool purchaſed here, on as eaſy Terms as in *England*. All Kinds of Working Utenſils are to be procured as good in their Kind, and equally reaſonable as in our Mother Country. It appears evident then, that Woollen Factories may be carried on here, to as great Advantage, and in a more effectual Manner, for the Purpoſes of our own Conſumption, than in *England*. Theſe Advantages manifeſtly appear from the great Succeſs, and high Perfection, of thoſe two conſiderable Branches of the Woollen Manufacture, the *Ratteen* and *Flannel* Trades. Theſe laſt-mentioned Goods, we make vaſtly cheaper, and by many Degrees better, than any other Country. Our *Serges* are alſo extremely good; we have a ſufficient Quantity for our own Conſumption; and they come much cheaper to the Buyer, than any that can be imported.

Since then, in theſe Articles, we have ſo viſible a Superiority over other Countries, whence ariſes

it,

it, that we are defective in one much more conſiderable? Why are we underſold in our ſuperfine Cloths? And how happens it, that the Quantity of them manufactured here is ſo ſmall, that it is inſufficient even to anſwer our Home Demand? As we have brought our narrow Fabricks to ſuch Perfection, how happens it that we fail in our broad ones?———Theſe are Queries well worth our Attention, and ought to be the Concern of every true Patriot, and Lover of his Country.

The beſt Reaſons that may be aſſigned, (which are certainly the true ones) why we excell in the one, and miſcarry in the other, are apprehended to be the following.

Our Ratteens, our Flannels, and our Serges, are manufactured in proper Places, and our ſuperfine Cloths in improper ones. The firſt, it is well known, are made in the Counties of *Tipperary* and *Kilkenny*; the ſecond, in the Counties of *Wexford* and *Wicklow*; and the Serges in the County of *Limerick*. All theſe are cheap Places, ſituated ſeveral Miles from the City of *Dublin*; and they are found to be very convenient for their reſpective Purpoſes, as Numbers of Workmen and their Families, have been ſettled in theſe Parts for many Years.

It muſt be conſidered alſo, that Houſe-Rent, and all Kinds of Proviſions, being much more reaſonable in theſe Counties, than in *Dublin*, the Price of Labour of courſe, is proportionably cheaper. Theſe are apprehended to be the true Cauſes of the flouriſhing State of the Narrow-Weaving Buſineſs.

From this View of Things, it ſeems pretty evident, that if the Broad Cloth Buſineſs had the like Advantages, it would thrive alike. But I ſhall now endeavour to point out in a more particular Manner,

Manner, the principal Cauſes which have hitherto obſtructed the Advancement of this important Branch; in order, if poſſible, to diſcover proper Methods of removing them.

For this Purpoſe, it will be neceſſary to trace Things back to their primary Source, before we come to deſcribe our preſent Situation: Which done, a Scheme will be propoſed, which, we hope will, if put in Execution, effectually extricate us from the Difficulties under which we at preſent labour; and in a few Years render our Broad-Cloth Manufacture as important, as extenſive, and as uſeful to this poor Country, as our narrow Manufactures have hitherto been.

The making of Broad-Cloth was not begun to any Purpoſe in *Ireland*, 'till about the Time of the Revolution in 1688; though it was many Years before carried on in *England*. It was introduced here by ſome *Engliſh* Clothiers and *French* Refugees; who ſet up their Works in *Dublin*: But I do not find that it was begun at that Time in any other Part of the Kingdom. It went on with tolerable Succeſs for ſome Years, ſo as to furniſh a Part of our own Conſumption; for by this Time, we were prevented from exporting any by an *Engliſh* Law.

Dublin was then but a very ſmall City compared to what it is now; and the Gentry reſiding in it infinitely fewer than there have been of late Years. Houſe-Rent and all Kinds of Proviſions were then much cheaper than they are now. To this, it may be imputed, that the Buſineſs owed its Advancement: And indeed, about the Year 1710, it was ſo conſiderably increaſed and improved, that we had a ſufficient Quantity of Broad-Cloth to cloath a large Number of Troops in this Kingdom. What gave great Encouragement to the

the Buſineſs was, an Act of Parliament, then in Force here, commonly called the *Forty Shillings Act*; by which, every Seaman was allowed the Liberty of exporting Forty Shillings worth of Woollen Goods: A Law that would be of very little Detriment to the *Engliſh* Woollen Trade, as the Quantities, thus allowed, were in themſelves very inconſiderable, and conſiſted chiefly of coarſe Goods, ſuch as are proper for the making of what the Sailors call *Slops*. And as this trifling Exportation was diſtributed into almoſt every Ship that ſailed from *England* to divers Parts abroad, no one Market, where the *Engliſh* Cloths were ſent to, could have been poſſibly overſtocked, or even injured, by this poor Indulgence; which, I cannot but think, was beneath the Dignity of a great and opulent Nation to deprive us of; and which was of no ſmall Diſſervice to the Poor, and the Cloathing Trade in general.

THE ſurpriſing Riſe of Houſe-Rent of late Years in this City and its Liberties; the high Rates of Proviſions, occaſioned by the Increaſe of People, and the exorbitant Growth of this Metropolis; together with the Elopement of many Workmen; conſpired to advance the Price of Journeymen's Wages. Notwithſtanding all theſe Diſcouragements, the Clothiers never came to a Reſolution to remove their Factories into the Country, where this Buſineſs might be carried on to as much Advantage as in *England*. Henceforward the Trade began to droop daily more and more; and ſince that Time, we have never made any Quantity of Cloths proportionably ſufficient to anſwer our Home Conſumption.

MANUFACTURIES well conducted, and properly aſſiſted, have always been reckoned the Strength

and

and Riches of every Nation; and have ever rendered the Inhabitants rich, flouriſhing, and powerful, in Proportion to their Number and Conſequence. The more important ſuch Manufacturies are in themſelves, ſo much the greater Attention do they demand from the Publick in general, and from every landed Gentleman in particular, who would willingly behold his Country flouriſh, and his own Eſtate enriched, adorned, improved, and cultivated; and who would ſee himſelf at the Head of an induſtrious, and thriving Number of Tenants, all labouring to enrich him and themſelves; and to afford him an Influence in his Country ſuperior to many others, who enjoy more extenſive Poſſeſſions.

It is agreed on all Hands, that the making of Broad-Cloth is the moſt conſiderable Branch of the Woollen Trade; and among other Diſcouragements it has met with in *Ireland*, may be reckoned the following one; not among the leaſt of them: That it has ſo happened, that the Clothiers here have been, for the moſt Part, Men of ſmall Fortunes on their firſt engaging in Buſineſs; but having, by the Time they were advanced in Years, acquired by Dint of Labour and Induſtry, a ſufficient Competency to live comfortably upon, they rather choſe to move on in the ſame beaten limited Track they had ever been accuſtomed to, than hazard their little Fortunes, or perplex their Minds, in more extenſive Concerns; which would require more Vigour, and greater Aſſiduity, than at their Period of Life they were capable of affording them. It may alſo be obſerved, that Men accuſtomed to reſide in a great City, do not chuſe to retire into the Country, but for Eaſe only; and though thoſe that had been long converſant in Buſineſs, muſt have

have found by Experience, that it could only be carried on with Succeſs there, yet it could be, by no Means, agreeable to Men in the Decline of Life, to engage in new Purſuits, and combat with new Cares; or to encourage bold, enterpriſing Spirits, to undertake what they were very ſenſible would ruin their own little Trade in the City; as thoſe who carried it on in the Country, might have it in their Power greatly to underſell them, and at the ſame Time, to make their own Fortunes.

To eſtabliſh this important Manufacture on a proper Foundation, and to render it as beneficial to the Kingdom as poſſible, without interfering with, or prejudicing that Branch of Trade in *England*; which we can hardly imagine the ſupplying our Home Conſumption can poſſibly do, as they have an infinite Demand of theſe Goods from *Ruſſia*, *Turkey*, the *Eaſt-Indies*, *America*, and many other Places: It is humbly ſubmitted to the Conſideration of the Public in general, and to that truly laudable Society in *Dublin*, for the Encouragement of *Arts*, *Manufactures*, and *Commerce*, in particular; whether, to encourage honeſt and induſtrious Perſons, well ſkilled in the Cloathing Buſineſs, by Præmiums to erect ſuch Factories in the Country as are already mentioned, would not redound to our national Honour and Intereſt, and prove of the utmoſt Importance and Benefit to the Individuals concerned in it.

To dictate to ſuperior Judgment would be Arrogance; to propoſe a Plan whoſe Baſis is inſecure and weak, would be Folly; but modeſtly to ſubmit a Scheme, that has been long thought practicable, and, which, if carried into Execution, would be advantageous and honourable to the Kingdom, to the Conſideration of ſo reſpectable, ſo truly pa-

triotic a Body of Men, as that to whom I have addreſſed this Eſſay; I hope, may at leaſt plead a good Intention, and excite a proper Conſideration.

SUPPOSE, for Example, a Præmium were offered to any Manufacturer, who within a certain Day, ſhould produce in the City of *Dublin*, the beſt and greateſt Quantity of ſuperfine Broad-Cloth, manufactured from *Spaniſh* Wool, in any Part of this Kingdom ſituated at a limited Diſtance from its Metropolis: The whole of the Manufacture from the raw Wool to finiſhing the Cloth, to be entirely carried on in the Country, and to equal in Goodneſs the beſt Superfines made in *Dublin*; and the Quantity to conſiſt of no leſs than twelve Pieces. A ſecond Præmium, on the like Terms, as to the ſecond beſt, and greateſt Quantity; not leſs, however, than eight Pieces. And a third Præmium, on the like Terms, and next beſt, and greateſt Quantity, not leſs than four Pieces. It is humbly apprehended, that ſuch Præmiums would, in a great Meaſure, anſwer the Ends propoſed: Would encourage Undertakers of Property to ſettle and open Factories in divers Parts of the Country, at proper Diſtances from the Metropolis; and induce Workmen and their Families to go thither, and work at their reſpective Branches in ſuch Country Factories; where, as hath been already proved, both the Undertakers and Workmen, would find it to be for their mutual Benefit. For the Maſters would find the Price of Wages, and the Charges of ſupporting his Family, much lighter than in a large City, and his neceſſary Expences would be much leſs. The Workmen would be free from Temptations of different Kinds, and would apply themſelves of courſe, more cloſely to their Buſineſs. Inſtead of being pent up in ſingle Rooms, with

their

their whole Families, as is the Caſe of Thouſands in the City and Liberties of *Dublin*; they might have comfortable Houſes to themſelves, at a cheaper Rate than ſuch cloſe, and conſequently, unwholſome Lodgings coſt them in Town. This particular Advantage, with the Benefit of a fine Country Air, and a wholeſome Situation, would invigorate their Bodies, and add many Years to their Lives, often ſhortened in Town by Intemperance and Debauch, by unwholeſome cloſe Lodgings, and a putrid, corrupted Air. Thus they would be able to live happily, decently, and comfortably; be an Ornament and Strength to their native Country; have no Temptations to wander into other Kingdoms for Employment; but every Man might enjoy the Fruits of his Labour quietly and peaceably, and become a uſeful Member to Society.

By obſerving a few People thrive at this Branch of Buſineſs, we might reaſonably expect Numbers would follow their Example; and it is not to be doubted, but in a few Years, this Manufacture might be ſo far eſtabliſhed, as to ſupply our own Demands, and thereby continue in our Country thoſe large Sums which now we annually remit Abroad for this Commodity.

It is very certain, that the firſt Outſet muſt neceſſarily be attended with conſiderable Expence; and Workmen be drawn together at no ſmall Charge. But, I doubt not, that if Præmiums were once propoſed, many would attempt to gain them *.

* If private Perſons will not aſſociate voluntarily, to embark in hazardous Undertakings, the better Way would be to allow a ſufficient Præmium, or Bounty, to encourage all Adventurers.

Tucker's *Eſſay on Trade.*

Or, ſuppoſe a Company of Merchants, or Gentlemen, were to join in ſuch a Scheme, and advance in equal Proportions, two thouſand five hundred Pounds, for erecting and eſtabliſhing a Broad-Cloth Factory in ſome convenient Part of the Kingdom, the nearer to the Centre the better, and contiguous to a Wool Country: Such a Company would, in a ſhort Time, not only greatly benefit themſelves by ſuch an Undertaking, but alſo contribute to bring this Branch of Buſineſs to its deſired Perfection.——To ſhew how this may be eaſily effected, the Author has drawn up the following Plan; which he humbly ſubmits to the Conſideration of the Public, and of that worthy Society, whoſe Endeavours have, ſince its firſt Inſtitution, been conſtantly directed to advance the Dignity and Intereſt of *Ireland*; and who are ſo laudably anxious to promote its Welfare, as, he hopes, will induce them not to reject a well-meant Endeavour of an Individual, that is actuated by the ſame generous Principle, who loves his Country with equal filial Affection, but whoſe Ability to ſerve it, is circumſcribed within a thouſand Times narrower Limits.

The DESIGN.

A Fabrick for the Factory ſhould be ſo contrived, that every Branch of the Buſineſs might be carried on within its Walls. It ſhould have Water at one End to anſwer the working of an Underſhot Mill, and all the other Purpoſes of the Factory; and it ſhould be erected contiguous to a good Turbery, or Bog, at leaſt forty Miles from

from *Dublin*, and about two Miles from any Market-Town. By theſe Means, the young People who are employed, will have but few Objects to divert them from their Work, and will be out of the Way of Temptations to Vice and Idleneſs. The building and compleating this Factory, with all its proper Offices, Conveniencies, and neceſſary Utenſils, will not exceed a thouſand Pounds; which the Company would be re-imburſed in a very ſhort Time, if aſſiſted by a Perſon, equal to the Taſk of properly conducting, and overſeeing the whole Undertaking. Such a one ſhould be a Perſon of good Morals and Character, of competent Senſe and much Experience in the Buſineſs, and one who by his Induſtry has acquired ſome little Fortune; as a Man in indigent Circumſtances could not be ſuppoſed capable to be ſerviceable to others, when he had not been ſo to himſelf; and a very opulent Man, though capable, would hardly be induced to undergo the Fatigue of it.

In order to render the Deſign more effectual and uſeful; to guard againſt all unneceſſary Expences; and that the whole might be carried on with the greateſt Frugality and Œconomy; it is propoſed, that this Work ſhould be managed in a Manner quite different from other Undertakings of a ſimilar Nature in *Ireland*; particularly as to the Choice of Workers; for were this Manufactury to be carried on by People only who are the moſt ſkilful and able in their reſpective Branches, the Profits would not be near ſo conſiderable, as if the following Plan was to be adopted and purſued.

It is apprehended, that the following Perſons will be neceſſary to execute this Undertaking.—— Two *Wool-Sorters*; four *Wool-Dreſſers*; two *Burlers*; twelve *Scribblers*; forty-eight *Spinners*; twenty-four

ty-four *Weavers* for working twelve broad Looms; twelve *Shearmen*; two *Swabs*, and two *Millers*:— In all an hundred and eight. Which Number may be ſupplied, by hiring twenty-five honeſt and experienced Workers from *Dublin*; the Remainder may be filled with Boys and Girls out of the Charter and Spinning-Schools, who may be employed and managed in ſuch a Manner, as to anſwer the Purpoſe of more experienced Workmen.

For this Purpoſe, of the two Wool-Sorters, one from *Dublin* will be ſufficient; and in like Manner, the Wool-Dreſſing, Swinging, and Burling, may be effected by two *Dublin* Workers; as the Remainder may, by proper Management, be ſupplied by Girls from the Charter-Schools. As the Scribbling is a Buſineſs very ſuitable to Boys, ſo there needs but one *Dublin* Scribbler; who, if he be a judicious Workman, may eaſily teach eleven Boys that Branch; and have the Buſineſs better performed, than it is generally done in any common Scribbling Shop in *Dublin*; where they hurry over their Work in a careleſs Manner; whereas the Perſon who inſtructs theſe Boys, would for his own Advantage and Credit, endeavour to get the Work done perfectly well.

INSTEAD of forty-eight ſkilful Spinners, two will ſerve the Purpoſe, as they may teach the Remainder, who may be collected from the Charter-Schools, to ſpin a tolerable good Skean, either of Warp or Weft, in leſs than three Months. Twelve ſkilful Weavers will alſo be ſufficient; the other twelve, being eaſily ſupplied from the Charter-Schools, as each of the Looms may be wrought by one Man, and a Boy even of twelve Years old.

SHEARING is alſo a Buſineſs very eaſily learnt, and a very proper Employment for Boys of a robuſt

Make

Make to work at; ſo that in a very little Time, by the Aſſiſtance of two good Workmen, a Dozen Boys may be taught to work tolerable well. The two Millers, and two Swabbs, ſhould be Men and know their Buſineſs.

It is evident, at firſt Sight, that by theſe Regulations, not only a very conſiderable Saving will be gained, but alſo, no unneceſſary Labour will be loſt: For the conſtant Method in carrying on Works of this Nature Abroad is, that no grown Perſon is ever employed in any Labour that a young one can undergo. Thus all Ages and Sexes find Work adapted to their ſeveral Capacities and Strength; and thus Children, inſtead of being a heavy Burthen on their poor Parents, come in a little Time to earn their own Bread.

The Boys and Girls ſhould diet and lodge in the Houſe, which, in a plentiful Country, would not amount to above two Shillings a-piece at moſt each Week. And this ſeems to be pretty nearly the Expence of the beſt Hoſpital in *Dublin*; 'though it is poſſible the Company might contract for their Diet ſomething cheaper. However, for this Weekly Expence of two Shillings for each Boy and Girl; the former would, in about ſix Months after the Undertaking is firſt carried on, be able to earn, one with another, about five Shillings and ſix Pence a Week; ſo that the chief Expence afterwards, would conſiſt in the Men's Wages, in Number twenty-five; which, upon an Average, would amount to about ſeven Shillings a Week each.

The employing of young Girls, would remedy a Defect which our ſuperfine Cloth is very liable to, cauſed by bad Spinning; or, by what is commonly called *Dutch* Spinning. This Branch is chiefly carried on for the *Dublin* Clothiers, by the Scribblers, who

who employ Women, or Girls who are deſtitute of every other Means of getting Bread; many of them will take up Work, and venture to ſpin, without ever having had the leaſt Inſtructions or Knowledge of the Buſineſs; and great Part of it is performed by others in a very careleſs and improper Manner: And as it is the loweſt of all the Branches of this Manufacture, in Point of Profit, it is very difficult to have it undertaken by diligent and careful People. From hence it happens, that in the Courſe of this Buſineſs, the Work of one bad Spinner is ſufficient to ſpoil that of half a Dozen good ones. But young Girls, under the Direction of a ſkilful Perſon, might be taught to ſpin as well as need be required in a ſhort Time. It is in this Article, that our Cloathing Buſineſs is moſt defective; for in the more eſſential Parts of it, that of Weaving and Shearing, our Journeymen work as well as thoſe in *England*, and are always encouraged and careſſed when they go thither. Nay, I have frequently heard many very eminent Clothiers there ſay, that they could not account for the Reaſon of the *Iriſh* buying up their Goods; and at the ſame Time, ſending them over ſuch able Workmen as were bred in *Ireland*.

THE propoſed Factory, even in the firſt Year after opening it, would compleatly finiſh upwards of four thouſand Pounds worth of Broad Cloths; but theſe at firſt muſt be ſuppoſed to conſiſt only of the coarſer Kinds; becauſe of the Introduction of ſo many young Hands: But thenceforward, it is not to be doubted, but that there might be wrought up by the ſame Perſons, much better Superfines than any hitherto made in this Kingdom: A Circumſtance, that would not only be extremely agreeable

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to the Woollen-Drapers in particular, but of the greateſt Conſequence to the Public in general.

A CAPITAL, of about fifteen hundred Pounds Sterling, properly applied, would be ſufficient to work up the above-mentioned four thouſand Pounds worth of Goods in the coarſe Way, for the firſt Year, as by ſelling for ready Money, this Sum might be turned three Times a Year. Suppoſing then, each Boy was to earn five Shillings and ſix-Pence a Week; and that it would require two Shillings and ſix-Pence a Week for his Maintenance and Cloathing; the Profits hereupon to the Company's Stock or Capital, would be three hundred and thirty-one Pounds Sterling for that Year; and it muſt be evident that the ſecond Year's Profit would be much greater; and that it would continue to riſe for ſome Years after in Proportion.

THE Profit, indeed, of the Girls Labour, cannot be ſuppoſed to be very much for the firſt Year: However, by good Management, it might ariſe to about ſeventy-eight Pounds; but the great Emolument that would ariſe from their executing their Work properly, would amply compenſate for that Deficiency.

THE Company, in Time, might enlarge their Fabric, and carry on a larger Extent of Buſineſs; but this muſt be left to their own Diſcretion, and would depend upon the Succeſs of the firſt Attempt.

THERE have been Inſtances of Factories having been carried on upon Principles, with not near the Proſpect of Succeſs that the preſent one has; and yet have ſucceeded extremely well. The propoſed Factory has a Branch of Buſineſs for its Object, as material, and as important, as any other can poſſibly be; beſides, there is not an Article or Material in

the whole Buſineſs, that can be termed a periſhable one; as has been the Caſe of ſome other different Kinds of Undertakings, by which the Proprietors have frequently met with great Diſappointments, and ſuſtained great Loſſes.

This profitable Scheme might be put in Execution, by any Nobleman or Gentleman, on the Principles above-mentioned, upon any Part of his Eſtate that is the moſt convenient for that Purpoſe; and which could not fail of being thereby very conſiderably improved. Such a Factory would create a Kind of Market for the Proviſions of many more of his Tenants, who muſt neceſſarily reap the Benefit of it. Many Children of theſe Tenants, inſtead of wandering about the Country, and filching whatever lies in their Way, might be bound Apprentices to divers Branches of this Trade; and thus, inſtead of being uſeleſs Members of, and burthenſome to the Community, be deemed in their reſpective Stations, as valuable Links of the great Chain of Society. The little, low, pilfering Diſpoſitions they before contracted, and which, probably, owed their Being to Idleneſs and Poverty, they would ſoon forſake; for by ſeeing, and indeed, feeling the Difference of their Manner of Living, when idle and when employed, they would endeavour by honeſt Induſtry to procure the Neceſſaries, and what to them might appear, the Luxuries of Life. The Ruſt of their Minds they would by Degrees ſhake off; their Faculties would gradually improve; their Conceptions of Things would be enlarged; and from a mere State of vegetative Life, they would riſe to a rational one; and by acquiring a Knowledge of moral Obligations, of Religion, of relative and ſocial Duties, they might, in the true Senſe of the Word, at length become

become *Men.* Being under the Eye and Management of ſober and able Artiſts, they would naturally imitate their Conduct, and learn their Skill; and in Time, they would become as much in Love with Buſineſs, as before they were with Idleneſs.

It is very evident, that ſuch is the Nature of Man, he generally imitates what he warmly approves: And there is no Doubt, but the comfortable Appearance of ſuch a well-fed, and well-cloathed Number of People as there would be in the propoſed Factory, would kindle a Spirit of Emulation in the Neighbourhood, and, like the chearing Splendor of the Sun's radiant Beams, quickly diffuſe its Influence around the Country.

It is wrong for Gentlemen to imagine their Wealth conſiſts entirely in their Number of Acres. The Induſtry of their Tenants is firſt to be conſidered, as that which conſtitutes real Wealth. This alone makes Land and Silver to be Wealth; neither of which would have any intrinſic Value, but, as Spurs to Induſtry. For a Man might poſſeſs a thouſand Acres of Land in the Wilds of *Africa*, or Waſtes of *America*, or be Proprietor of Gold or Silver Mines in *Peru* or *Mexico*, and yet want every Neceſſary of Life.

As to a ready Market for our Manufacture there is not the leaſt Hazard. There could be no Danger of not ſelling the Goods in *Dublin*, as there is always a certain and immediate Call for them. But it is to be preſumed, that Merchants from all Parts of the Kingdom, as ſoon as the Place had gained a Reputation, would readily buy them on the Spot, as they would find it both for their Intereſt and Conveniency to do ſo; eſpecially, as they might ſupply themſelves at ſuch a Factory, at leaſt ſix *per* Cent cheaper than in *Dublin* Market.

The Profit ariſing from a net Stock of one thouſand five hundred Pounds Sterling, allowing ten *per* Cent. as the Principal is to be turned thrice a Year, would amount to four hundred and fifty Pounds; which, together with the Profits ariſing from the Labour of the Boys and Girls, after their Cloathing and Maintenance are deducted, would amount to eight hundred and ſeventy-ſeven Pounds. There would alſo be an Undertaking Profit, which would ariſe from the Work being done in the Houſe; which would be more than ſufficient to defray the Expences of Carriage of the Goods, Repairs of the Factory, and Wear and Tear of Utenſils.

It muſt be allowed, that ten *per* Cent. is a Profit ſmall enough for a Trader or a Company to make. For if a Perſon was to begin the Cloathing Buſineſs in *Dublin*, with a Capital of three hundred Pounds, and that he turned it three Times a Year, his Profit would be ninety Pounds only. It muſt be conſidered too, that in Town, a Maſter ſuffers many Loſſes and Impoſitions from the Negligence and Idleneſs of his Workmen; and for ſome Years paſt, this Trade has laboured under many Difficulties of this Nature, which a Country Factory would by no Means be ſubject to; as all the Men there would be under the Eye of one Maſter; and whatever Quantity their Work turned out to, it would tend to the Advantage and Profits of the Company: Whereas, it is notorious, that one Workman will undertake to work for half a Dozen Maſters, when at the ſame Time, if he was to perform one Man's Work well, and as it ought to be, he would find ſufficient Employment. To this it is owing, that the Buſineſs is generally neglected, and too frequently injured; and theſe evil Practices are

generally

generally followed, at a Time, when the Clothiers have the greateſt Demand for theſe Goods.

The Author is ready, upon a due Application, to prove all the above-mentioned Circumſtances, by a Series of undeniable Facts; and if any private Gentleman, Merchant, or Society, ſhould, from what has been ſaid, think proper to put his Scheme into Execution, in any Part of this Kingdom, he will give all the Advice in his Power, towards furthering ſo profitable, and ſo noble an Undertaking. Thoroughly convinced of the Utility and Importance of his Scheme, he doubts not, but it would be thought by every Lover of his Country, proper to be reduced to Practice, if he had cloathed it in ſo beautiful a Veſture, as thoſe who have greater Abilities for ſuch an Undertaking, are capable of doing. All his Apprehenſions are, that the Subject is not handled, in Point of Accuracy and Preciſion, with that Judgment and Art, as while it would have captivated the Admiration of the Reader, would at the ſame Time have convinced him of the extreme Conſequence of his Plan. But he hopes all Defects of this Kind will be pardoned; and that as he does not pretend to be a profeſſed or able Writer, his Scheme alone will be the Object of Criticiſm and Enquiry, and not the Manner and Language in which he has repreſented it to the public View.

It is a Truth too well known to be denied, and too ſenſibly felt to require much Proof, that we have a prodigious Number of idle Hands in this Kingdom, that if ſet to Work, would be of great Service to the Community, and to themſelves. Of the Million and a half of Souls there are computed to be in *Ireland*, it is imagined, at leaſt one in twenty are at preſent, of little or no Benefit to the Public

lic for Want of Employment. Among them we may rank almoſt all the Children of the poorer Sort: And it is eaſy to conceive, that this Portion of our People may be ſet to Work, ſo as to increaſe the public Stock, by at leaſt forty Shillings *per Annum* a Perſon, one with another.

THE Author will not inſiſt indeed, on the Poſſibility, or the Expediency, of employing all of them in the Woollen Manufactory, yet certainly, Numbers of them might be. As theſe Burthens on Society are diſtributed in various Parts of this Kingdom, it is not expected that they ſhould leave them to reſort to another; but it is apprehended, that Buſineſſes might be followed, or Manufacturies eſtabliſhed, proper for the reſpective Situations where they ſhould be carried on, that would employ all the idle Hands that could poſſibly be found; and by that Means, be enabled to reſcue themſelves from the wretched Situation of Dirt and Beggary, which the Poor of *Ireland* poſſeſs, in a Degree beyond thoſe of any other Country in *Europe*.

THE above-mentioned Sum of forty Shillings a Head, would amount to about one hundred and fifty thouſand Pounds *per Annum*. All then that is required to obtain ſuch a deſirable Increaſe of Wealth, and with it, a Reformation of Men and Manners, is to ſet them an Example of Induſtry, by placing a few People before their Eyes, who by their Application to Buſineſs, would enable themſelves to live comfortably, wear good Cloathing, and in ſhort, to appear Contraſts to that Situation that Idleneſs and Sloth will always produce.

THE Woollen Manufactury once eſtabliſhed, there is no Doubt but Numbers of our Poor would

be glad to be employed in it: And where the Poor of a Country can be rendered ſerviceable to it, it is very obvious, that that Country muſt inevitably grow rich; for as Labour is the Wealth of a People, that Nation that gives Bread to the greateſt Number of Subjects, hath a viſible Superiority over any other. For a Country inhabited by People, well-fed, cloathed, and lodged, would every Day become more and more populous; a Spirit of Induſtry, of Frugality, and Independence, would diffuſe itſelf around; and the Empire of Drunkenneſs, Vice, and Debauchery would be in a great Meaſure overturned.

THAT the Author may render his Plan of the propoſed Undertaking, as intelligible as poſſible, he has thought proper in the next Page to ſubjoin an Eſtimate of the Expence of building the propoſed Factory.

ESTIMATE

ESTIMATE of the EXPENCE of building the FACTORY.

	l.	*s.*	*d.*
TO the Houſe and all the Offices, that will be ſufficient to carry on this Work	500	00	0
To two Coppers - -	30	00	0
To one Tuck Mill, &c. - - -	150	00	0
To 48 Spinning Wheels, at 2*s.* per - -	4	16	0
To 4 Reels, at 4*s.* per - - -	0	16	0
To 12 Scribbling Frames, at 5*s.* per - -	3	00	0
To 36 Pair of Scribbling Cards, at 4*s.* per	7	01	0
To 12 Broad Looms, at 4*l.* per - - -	48	00	0
To two Preſſes, Papers, &c. - - -	80	00	0
To 30 Pair of Sheers, at 2*l.* per - - -	60	00	0
To 100 Courſe of Handles, at 5*s.* per - -	25	00	0
To ſix Sheer Boards - - -	7	10	0
To ſix Dubbing Boards - - -	4	10	0
To one Pair of Tenters - -	25	00	0
To other ſmall Expences attending the Sheering, ſuch as Lead Weights, Hand-Hooks, Quirrets, Bruſhes, Jacks, &c. - - - -	10	00	0
To Baſkets, Weights and Scales, Slays, Harneſſes, Quill Wheels, &c. - - - -	12	00	0
To 50 Beds and Bedding, at 16*s.* each, as they will be able to fill their Beds ſhortly with the Flocks of the Factory - - - -	40	00	0
To a Bomb Cart - - - -	10	00	0
To a Horſe - - - - -	10	00	0
	1027	13	0

FINIS.